

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces prior versions:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus comprising:

a sensor section mounted on the apparatus body for detecting a fingerprint of an operator;

a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section in such a manner that an operator's finger can access the sensor section when the cover is in the open position; and

a contact section arranged on the apparatus body at a position where the operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith during an operator's action to open the cover, the contact section being electrically connected to the ground of the apparatus body,

wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover.

Claim 2 (original): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus comprising:

a sensor section mounted on the apparatus body for detecting a fingerprint of an operator;

a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section in such a manner that an operator's finger can access the sensor section when the cover is in the open position; and

a contact section arranged on the apparatus body at a position where the operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith during an operator's action to open the cover, the contact section being electrically connected to the ground of the apparatus body,

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover, and

wherein the contact section is arranged in a recess which is provided on the apparatus body at a position near to the free end of the cover when it is in the closed position.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus comprising:

a sensor section mounted on the apparatus body for detecting a fingerprint of an operator;

a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section in such a manner that an operator's finger can access the sensor section when the cover is in the open position; and

a contact section arranged on the apparatus body at a position where the operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith during an operator's action to open the cover, the contact section being electrically connected to the ground of the apparatus body,

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover, and

wherein the free end of the cover is gently curved in such a manner that a central portion thereof is protruded outwardly more than respective side portions thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the contact section is arranged in a recess, and the recess and the contact section are also curved along with a curvature profile of the ~~recess~~ cover.

Claim 6 (original): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a locking means for locking the cover in its closed position, the locking means comprising a first engaging member provided at the free end of the cover and a second engaging member provided at a position corresponding to the first engaging member so that the first and second engaging members are mutually engaged with each other when the cover is in its closed position.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An electrical unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

- a unit casing;

- the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

- a sensor section;

- a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

- a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section being electrically connected to the ground of the unit casing,

- wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover.

Claim 8 (original): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An electrical unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

- a unit casing;

- the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

  - a sensor section;

  - a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

  - a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section being electrically connected to the ground of the unit casing,

  - wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover, and

  - wherein the contact section is arranged in a recess which is provided on the unit casing at a position near to the free end of the cover when it is in the closed position.

Claim 10 (original): An electrical unit as set forth in claim 9, wherein the free end of the cover is gently curved in such a manner that a central portion thereof is protruded outwardly more than respective side portions thereof.

Claim 11 (original): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the recess and the contact section are also gently curved along with a curvature profile of the recess.

Claim 12 (original): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the fingerprint recognizing apparatus further comprises a locking means for locking the cover in its closed position, the locking means comprising a first engaging member provided at the free end of the cover and a second engaging member provided at a position corresponding to the first engaging member so that the first and second engaging members are mutually engaged with each other when the cover is in its closed position.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An electrical unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

- a unit casing;

- the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

  - a sensor section;

  - a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

  - a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section being electrically connected to the ground of the unit casing, and

  - a ground contact plate which is rigidly connected to the unit casing, the contact section is formed as a part of the ground plate.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 7 further comprising a mounting plate for rigidly securing the fingerprint recognizing apparatus to the unit casing by means of a screw.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An information processing unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

- a unit ~~[[body]]~~ casing comprising a data input section and a data processing section for processing data input from the data input section;

- a display section for displaying letters and images; and

- the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

- a sensor section;

- a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

- a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section electrically connected to the ground of the unit casing,

- wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover.